



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Batch/Confirmation No.: 3414

Masayoshi TAKI et al.

Allowed: March 9, 2004

Group Art Unit: 1725

Application No.: 09/720,568

Examiner: S. Henrich

Filed: January 26, 2001

Docket No.: 108236

For: FUEL REFORMER DEVICE

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Notice of Allowance and Fees Due mailed March 9, 2004, Applicants submit the following comments in response to the Reasons for Allowance.

**Remarks**

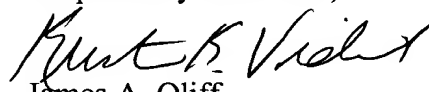
The Examiner stated that the allowed claims are directed to an apparatus, wherein (1) an endothermic steam reforming reaction produces hydrogen, and (2) an exothermic oxidation reaction oxidizes crude fuel, comprising (a) a catalytic section, (b) a fuel gas supply providing crude fuel, steam, and oxygen, (c) a gaseous fuel output, and (d) "a unit for particular gas flow regulation of fuel gas" (Office action, page 2).

Regarding component "(d)" above, in independent claims 1 and 11, component "(d)" is such a unit (gas flow velocity regulation unit and gas flow direction inversion unit, respectively). However, in independent claim 13, component "(d)" is a catalyst stirrer unit.

Regarding the remaining independent claims, in independent claims 18-21 and 23, the apparatus comprises (a) a catalytic section, (b) a crude fuel gas supply providing crude fuel and steam, (c) an oxidizing gas supply providing oxygen, and (d) a gaseous fuel output. In addition, in independent claims 18-21, the apparatus comprises (e) a heat homogenization unit (claim 18), a heating unit (claim 20), or an end cooling unit (claim 21).

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 1, 2004

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